Cancellation of flights due to the aircrash at Ahmedabad and Guwahati

655. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and the names of the flights cancelled throughout the country consequent upon the aircrashes in Ahmedabad and Guwahati on 19-10-1988; and

(b) what is the estimated financial loss incurred on account of these crashes and cancellations of flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Effective 25th October, 1988 Indian Airlines has cancelled two of its B-737 services namely, IC-598|597(Bombay-Cochin- Bombay) and IC-249|250 (Calcutta-Guwahati-Calcutta). Vayudoot has cancelled operation of services to Kailashahar and Kamalpur.

(b) As far as crashes are concerned the aircraft were insured. The amount of loss on account of cancellation of the services would be difficult to compute as passengers travelling to these affected places would normally take alternative services.

Financial package for the purchase of aircraft

656 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines have failed to tie up financial package for the purchase of 19 aircrafts to be delivered by 1990 and that has decided to appoint a foreign consultant to suggest the way of financing the purchase;

(b) whether it is also a fact that enough expertise is available within the country to chalk out the desirable package and that the job can be done by the IA officials itself; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on account of consultancy fee to the foreign consultants and what are the reasons for appointing foreign consultants when the necessary expertise is available within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The financing of the foreign exchange cost for acquisition of aircraft will be decided by Indian Airlines in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Multiple options are available in the International Financing Market for loan and lease finance. The question whether the services of a foreign consultancy firm are required or not has not been decided.

Purchase of Air-bus 320 from a French Company

657. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that letter of intent for the purchase of 12 Airbus A-320 from a French company was issued before he report of the French Government into the crashing of Airbus A-320 on its demonstration flight at Mulhose/Habeseium Airfield in France in June, 1988, was available; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for issuing letter of intent without knowing the outcome of the investigations into the crash by the French Accident investigation Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The Preliminary Report, received in July, 1988, on the accident of Airbus A-320 aircraft of Air France, at Malhousel Habeseim, France on 26-6-1988, revealed that the accident did not occur from any defect, malfunctioning attributable to A-320 aircraft, but was caused by the pilot's error. The letter of intent for 12 Airbus

A-320 aircraft was issued on the 8th July, 1988.

(b) Issuing of a letter of intent did not in any way bind either Government or Indian Airlines to the purchase of the aircraft.

Training to Youths by Pakistan Army

658. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan army, besides some other agencies, is giving arms training to Kashmiri youths in various camps across the border for subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware that training centres have been set up in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for imparting training to subversive elements from Jammu and Kashmir.

Government's deep concerns in this regard have been conveyed to the Government of Pakistan.

Complet'on of Madasa-Kapadganj-Nadiad Railways Project

659. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of the Madasa-Kapadganj-Nadiad railway broad gauge conversion project;

(b) what amount was allocated in the last budget for the project; and

(c) by when this project is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) 9 per cent.

(b) Rs. 1000/-.

(c) Its progress and completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

Coordination among the IAAI, NAA, AI and IA

660. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper coordination exists between IAAI, NAA and AI/IA at the major airports in our country;

(b) whether Government have fixed any responsibility due to human failure for minor mishaps and damages to Aircraft at the major Airports in the country in the year 1988; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government in this direction to imbibe full confidence in the travelling air passengers in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on the findings and recommendations of Director General of Civil Aviation and Airlines, disciplinary action is taken against the erring officials for human failure so as to ensure safe air travel.

Confederation of P.L.O. with Jordan

661. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report from Cairo that a senior officer of Palestine Liberation Organisation has indicated willingness of the organisation to join wth Jordan in a confederation style Government; and

(b) if so, whether Government consider this offer as a practical and plausible solution of the P.L.O. problem; if so, what